



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

November 28, 2005

## **ICE AGENTS ARREST BUS DRIVER ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGE**

*Mayville, N.Y. Man Drove Pre-school Children For a Local Bus Company*

MAYVILLE, N.Y. – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents have arrested a Mayville bus driver on child pornography charges. The ICE agents were following leads generated by Operation Predator, a national initiative aimed at protecting children from human traffickers, child pornographers and sexual predators.

Fifty-two year old Thomas Farnham, who worked for a bus service that provided transportation for children, had his initial appearance in United States District Court for the Western District of New York this afternoon. He is charged with the possession of thousands of child pornography images, a violation of 18 USC 2256. It is illegal to receive and possess child pornography images in any form. According to an affidavit filed in federal court Farnham turned over his computer to ICE agents during the investigation. Other evidence was seized when agents served a search warrant.

Forensic computer experts retrieved images of child pornography from the computer and computer discs seized during the investigation. According to the affidavit, the evidence showed prepubescent boys clearly less than 18 years old involved in sexual conduct. Farnham drove a bus for a Jamestown, N.Y. bus company. In federal court today it was confirmed that Farnham's employment required him to drive pre-school children. The federal magistrate ordered that the bus company be informed of the child pornography charges. Farnham was released on his own recognizance with conditions, which include that he have only limited access to the Internet subject to monitoring by the U.S. Probation Office. His next court appearance is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Peter J. Smith, Special Agent in Charge of the Buffalo ICE office said, "Purchasing and downloading images of child pornography supports a monstrous industry which exploits and victimizes children world-wide. ICE agents work to protect children in our communities by detecting and arresting individuals who have access to children." Smith pointed out that more than 6,500 individuals, both foreign nationals and United States citizens, have been arrested under Operation Predator.

Predator uses a broad range of law enforcement authorities in the federal government to target those who exploit young people. Children are one of the most important and vulnerable assets to America's homeland. Smith said ICE will do everything in its power to protect them. The United States Attorney for the Western District of New York will prosecute the case. The charges against Farnham are allegations and he is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

**# ICE #**

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*